

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TEL AV 06855 301708Z
ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W
-----014296 301710Z /64
O 301559Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3367
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 6855

EXDIS - HANDLE AS NODIS

FOR SAUNDERS FROM VIETS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, IS
SUBJECT: MIDDLE EAST AND THE NATO COMMUNIQUE

REF: STATE 136037

1. YOUR TELEGRAM WAS MOST HELPFUL. I WENT TO THE FOREIGN MINISTRY THIS MORNING FOR A PREVIOUSLY SCHEDULED MEETING TO INTRODUCE EVRON TO BALCKWILL. WE WERE BARELY SEATED WHEN EVRON SAID DAYAN WANTED THE SECRETARY TO KNOW HOW CONCERNED HE WAS OVER REPORTS THAT THE NATO COMMUNIQUE WOULD ADDRESS THE MIDDLE EAST IN DETAIL. DAYAN HOPED NATO WOULD STAY AWAY FROM THIS SUBJECT SINCE SPECIFIC NATO POSITIONS ON PEACE NEGOTIATIONS WOULD SERVE NO USEFUL PURPOSE, AND COULD BE HARMFUL.

2. DRAWING ON MESSAGE, I EXPLAINED THAT LANGUAGE IN QUESTION WAS PREPARED AT STAFF LEVEL. IT DID NOT REPRESENT CONSIDERED VIEW OF U.S. POLICYMAKERS AND INDEED WASHINGTON WAS NOT PRESSING FOR DETAILED LANGUAGE. IT NOW SEEMED UNLIKELY THAT COMMUNIQUE WOULD INCLUDE ANYTHING BUT A GENERAL AND ANODYNE STATEMENT ON MIDDLE EAST SITUATION, IF
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 TEL AV 06855 301708Z

THAT. IN THIS CONTEXT, I READ HIM PREFERRED U.S. TEXT IN PARA THREE REFTTEL, BUT EMPHASIZED SEVERAL TIMES ISSUE WOULD NOT FINALLY BE SETTLED UNTIL THE DRAFTING COMMITTEE HAD COMPLETED ITS WORK.

3. LATER IN OUR MORNING AT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, EVRON AGAIN TRACKED US DOWN, HE SAID HE HAD BRIEFED DAYAN, WHO WAS HOME WICK,

ON OUR EARLIER CONVERSATION. DAYAN WAS GREATLY RELIEVED AND ASKED THAT HIS PERSONAL APPRECIATION BE CONVEYED TO THE SECRETARY.

4. MATTER WAS NOT YET CLOSED. WHILE AT LUNCH IN JERUSALEM WITH A NEWSPAPERMAN, I RECEIVED CALL FROM THE FOREIGN MINISTRY. WAS INFORMED THAT SEVERAL JOURNALISTS HAD SEEN ME GOING INTO EVRON'S OFFICE AND HAD OFFICIALLY ASKED IF NATO COMMUNIQUE HAD BEEN SUBJECT OF DISCUSSION. WAS ALSO TOLD THAT GOI HAD RECEIVED TELEGRAM FROM WASHINGTON WHICH REPEATED SUBSTANCE OF MY PRESENTATION AND CONTAINED LANGUAGE I HAD PASSED EVRON. TO POUR WATER ON ANY REMAINING COALS, I AGREED THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN COULD SAY THAT U.S. WAS NOT PUSHING FOR PRECISE NATO COMMUNIQUE LANGUAGE ON MIDDLE EAST, BUT AGAIN STRESSED DECISIONS WOULD BE TAKEN BY ALLIANCE AS A WHOLE AND THAT DRAFTING COMMITTEE HAD NOT YET ENDED ITS DELIBERATIONS.

5. COMMENT: DON'T WANT TO BELABOR THE PAST, BUT REGRET THAT WE WERE NOT GIVEN OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT ON THIS ISSUE BEFORE IT HIT THE FAN. ONCE AGAIN WE HAVE SEEN THE ISRAELI OBSESSION FOR PRIOR CONSULTATION ON MATTERS WHICH THEY BELIEVE FUNDAMENTALLY AFFECT THEIR NEGOTIATING POSITION. RECRIMINATIONS WHICH WERE PLANTED IN THE PRESS, OUR RECEPTION AT THE FOREIGN OFFICE, DAYAN'S CONCERN AND EVRON'S PERSONAL ANXIETY LED ME TO GO BEYOND
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 TEL AV 06855 301708Z

INSTRUCTIONS AND GIVE THE GOI OUR PREFERRED MINIMAL TEXT. FELT IT WAS NECESSARY TO TAKE THE STING OUT OF WHAT WAS CLOSE TO ISRAELI ACCUSATIONS OF BAD FAITH.

6. WHAT BOTHERS ME ABOUT ALL THIS IS THE IMAGE IT CREATES HERE OF U.S. WE APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN ABOUT TO PUT FURTHER PRESSURE ON ISRAEL THROUGH THE NATO COMMUNIQUE, BUT THEN TO HAVE BACKED DOWN. FEW ISRAELIS WILL ACCEPT THAT MIDDLE-LEVEL STAFFERS IN STATE DEPARTMENT COULD PUT FORWARD DETAILED LANGUAGE ON THE MIDDLE EAST FOR A SUMMIT COMMUNIQUE WITHOUT THE PRIOR APPROVAL OF THEIR SUPERIORS. THIS MAY SEEM LIKE PARANOIA, BUT IT IS THE REALITY OF THE PSYCHOLOGICAL MOOD WHICH PRESENTLY EXISTS IN THIS COUNTRY, BECAUSE OF DEVELOPMENTS IN U.S.-ISRAELI RELATIONS DURING THE PAST SEVERAL MONTHS. AND, OF COURSE, THE INCIDENT OCCURS ONLY A FEW DAYS BEFORE THE CABINET TAKE UP THE TWO QUESTIONS POSED TO BEGIN BY THE U.S. A TEMPEST IN A TEAPOT THIS MAY BE, BUT UNFORTUNATELY THE TEAPOT IS BUBBLING IN THE HIGHEST OFFICES OF THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT. WE ASSUME THE TIME WILL COME WHEN WE WILL WISH TO DIRECTLY TAKE ON THE GOI ON THE PRINCIPAL QUESTIONS OF PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST. BUT UNTIL THAT TIME, WE SHOULD INSURE

THAT OUR ACTIONS PRESERVE OUR POSITION AS A BALANCED MEDIATOR
IN THIS DUSPUTE, AND AVOID SITUATIONS
IN WHICH WE OFFEND AND ANGER THE ISRAELIS
TO NO PARTICULAR END.
LEWIS

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PEACE, POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, MEETINGS, COMMUNIQUEs, REGIONAL DEFENSE ORGANIZATIONS, NEGOTIATIONS, CAT-B
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978TELAV06855
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: EXDIS HANDLE AS NODIS, FOR SAUNDERS FROM VIETS
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: P840137-1584
Format: TEL
From: TEL AVIV
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t1978056/aaaaaese.tel
Line Count: 121
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 11921c9f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NODS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS, EXDIS
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS, EXDIS
Reference: 78 STATE 136037
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2693296
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MIDDLE EAST AND THE NATO COMMUNIQUE
TAGS: PEPR, US, IS, XF, EG, NATO
To: STATE CAIRO MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/11921c9f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014